

MILL CREEK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Last Updated: 24 January 2005

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MI Koch

MILL CREEK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

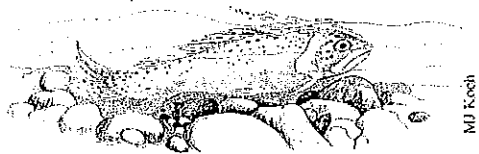
1111 SECOND STREET, CRESCENT CITY, CA 95531
TEL: (707) 464-6101 x5100
ATTN: RICK SERMON

AGENDA

Date: Tuesday January 14 2003
Time: 9 am to 1 pm
Place: Redwood National and State Park
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

		Time
I	ACTION	
1	* Adoption of Charter	45 minutes
2	Nomination of Chairperson	10 minutes
3	Set schedule for coming year	5 minutes
II	INFORMATION	
1	* Interim Management Recommendations	1 hour
2	Current action	45 minutes
3	Funding Sources: please come prepared to discuss funding opportunities	1 hour
III	SITE TOURS	
1	Road work	4 hours

* indicates supporting material enclosed.



MILL CREEK ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHARTER 1-14-03

1. **BACKGROUND:** On June 4, 2002 the California Department of Parks and Recreation acquired the 25,000 Mill Creek property in Del Norte County. Funding for the acquisition was provided by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), Wildlife Conservation Board, Department of Fish and Game, State Coastal Conservancy, and Save-the-Redwoods League.
2. **DESIGNATION:** The official designation of this advisory committee is the *Mill Creek Advisory Committee*. The Committee was established pursuant to the Agreement of Terms and Conditions for the Mill Creek Property (hereafter "Property"), dated May 6, 2002.
3. **PURPOSE and GOALS:** The purpose of the Committee is to advise the California Department of Parks and Recreation on the development and implementation of interim and long-term management plans or General Plan for the Property consistent with the primary goal for the Property which is to restore late seral forest characteristics and associated natural functions that maximize benefits to the salmonid species of its streams and wildlife associated with late seral forest. The Committee will also seek funding to implement interim and long-term management plans for the property, consistent with the non-binding Memorandum of Understanding entered into in May 2001 that contemplated seeking funds for fisheries and wildlife habitat improvements at Mill Creek.
4. **REPORT:** The Committee reports to the Redwood Coast Sector Superintendent.
5. **SUPPORT:** Support for the Committee is provided by the California Department of Parks and Recreation.
6. **DUTIES:** The duties of the Committee are solely advisory. At least 50 per-cent of the members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting the committee's business. The Committee will render advice by consensus of the quorum.
7. **MEMBERS:** The Committee will initially consist of the State Coastal Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Board, Department of Fish and Game, Save-the-Redwoods League and the County of Del Norte (hereafter collectively referred to as the "Members"). Membership of the Committee may be extended to include others as the Members and DPR from time-to-time identify and agree upon. Each Member shall nominate a designated representative. At their discretion Members may nominate an alternative representative who can attend meetings, but shall not vote should the primary representative be present.
8. **CHAIR:** Committee Members will choose among themselves one member to serve as chairperson.
9. **MEETINGS:** The Committee will meet at least twice per year, at a time and in a location determined by the Chairperson in consultation with Members.
10. **PARTICIPATION:** Each Member is expected to fully participate in meetings and the work of the Committee.

11. **SUB-COMMITTEES:** The Committee may create subcommittees from among its membership, supplemented when appropriate by members of the public. The role of such subcommittees shall be solely to gather information or conduct research for the Committee, to analyze relevant issues and facts, or to draft proposed position papers for deliberation by the Committee. Membership on all subcommittee will be determined by the Chairperson, subject to the concurrence of the designated DPR representative.
12. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** In carrying out its duties, the Committee, or subcommittees, may seek the views of various citizen groups and members of the public.
13. **TERMINATION:** Any Member of the Committee may withdraw there from upon thirty (30) days written notice to other Members of the Committee and DPR.



(916) 653-8380

NOV 13 2002

M
K4

Ms. Kate Anderton
Executive Director/Secretary
114 Sansome Street, Room 1200
San Francisco, California 94104-3823

Dear Ms. Anderton:

On behalf of the citizens of California, please accept my sincere thanks for your agency's support for the purchase of the Mill Creek property in Del Norte County. We believe this will make an outstanding addition to State Parks and will provide protection for critical habitat.

As you know, an Agreement of Terms and Conditions was reached between the funding agencies that provides for an advisory committee. The purpose of the committee is to advise the California Department of Parks and Recreation on the development and implementation of interim and long-term management plans or a General Plan for the property consistent with the primary goal for the property. Please see a draft advisory committee charter attached.

It is now time to begin this important work. We would like to schedule the first meeting of the advisory committee on Friday, December 6, 2002, in Crescent City. A proposed agenda is also attached. I am asking that you designate a representative to this committee – someone who can speak for your agency and participate in the recommendations that will be needed to guide our actions.

Our Department representative to this committee will be a Park Superintendent Richard Sermon. Please contact him with the name of your representative. Mr. Sermon can be reached by telephone at (707) 464-6101 Ext. 5100, or email Richard_Sermon@partner.nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Ruth G. Coleman
Acting Director

Attachments (2)



MI Koch

MILL CREEK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1111 SECOND STREET, CRESCENT CITY, CA 95531
TEL: (707) 464-6101 X5100
ATTN: RICK SERMON

AGENDA

Date: Friday December 6, 2002
Time: tbd
Place: Redwood National and State Park
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

		Time
I	ACTION	
1	* Adoption of Charter	45 minutes
2	Nomination of Chairperson	10 minutes
3	Set schedule for coming year	5 minutes
II	INFORMATION	
1	* Interim Management Recommendations	1 hour
2	Current action	45 minutes
3	Funding Sources: please come prepared to discuss funding opportunities	1 hour
III	SITE TOURS	
1	Road work	4 hours

* indicates supporting material enclosed.



MILL CREEK ADVISORY COMMITTEE DRAFT CHARTER

1. **BACKGROUND:** On June 4, 2002 the California Department of Parks and Recreation acquired the 25,000 Mill Creek property in Del Norte County. Funding for the acquisition was provided by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Wildlife Conservation Board, Department of Fish and Game, State Coastal Conservancy, and Save-the-Redwoods League.
2. **DESIGNATION:** The official designation of this advisory committee is the Mill Creek Advisory Committee. The Committee was established pursuant to the Agreement of Terms and Conditions for the Mill Creek Property (hereafter "Property"), dated May 6, 2002.
3. **PURPOSE and GOALS:** The purpose of the Committee is to advise the California Department of Parks and Recreation on the development and implementation of interim and long-term management plans or General Plan for the Property consistent with the primary goal for the Property which is to restore late seral forest characteristics and associated natural functions that maximize benefits to the salmonid species of its streams and wildlife associated with late seral forest. The Committee will also seek funding to implement interim and long-term management plans for the property, consistent with the non-binding Memorandum of Understanding entered into in May 2001 that contemplated seeking funds for fisheries and wildlife habitat improvements at Mill Creek.
4. **REPORT:** The Committee reports to the [District Superintendent, North Coast District / Parks Superintendent / Northern Service Center].
5. **SUPPORT:** Support for the Committee is provided by [the California Department of Parks and Recreation / rotating Committee chair].
6. **DUTIES:** The duties of the Committee are solely advisory. The Committee will render advice by affirmative vote of a majority of the members present. Three (3) members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting the committee's business.
7. **MEMBERS:** The Committee will initially consist of representatives of the funders, including State Coastal Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Board, Department of Fish and Game, and Save-the-Redwoods League (hereafter collectively referred to as the "Funders"). Membership of the Committee may be extended to include other entities as DPR and the Funders from time-to-time identify and agree upon. A representative of the County of Del Norte is hereby included as a member of the Committee. Each member shall nominate an alternative representative who can attend meetings, but shall not vote should the primary representative be present.
8. **MEMBER TERM:** Committee members will be appointed for [YEAR] terms, and will choose among themselves one member to serve as chairperson. Any member of the Committee may serve after the expiration of their term until a successor is appointed.

9. **MEETINGS:** The Committee will meet [at least / approximately] [NUMBER] of times per year, at a time and in a location determined by the [designated California Department of Parks and Recreation officer].
10. **NON ATTENDENCE:** Any member of the Committee who fails to attend Committee meetings, or who otherwise fails to substantively participate in the work of the Committee, may be removed from the Committee and a replacement named. Vacancies on the Committee will be filled by determination of remaining Committee members.
11. **SUB-COMMITTEES:** The Committee may create subcommittees from among its membership, supplemented when appropriate by members of the public. The role of such subcommittees shall be solely to gather information or conduct research for the Committee, to analyze relevant issues and facts, or to draft proposed position papers for deliberation by the Committee. Membership on all subcommittee will be determined by the Chairperson, subject to the concurrence of the designated California Department of Parks and Recreation officer.
12. **OUTSIDE ADVICE:** In carrying out its duties, the Committee, or subcommittees, may seek the views of various citizen groups and members of the public.
13. **TERMINATION:** Any member of the Committee may withdraw there from upon thirty (30) days written notice to other members of the Committee.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
REGARDING THE
MILL CREEK PROPERTY
IN
DEL NORTE COUNTY

Parties:

The state agency parties to this Memorandum of Understanding are the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), and the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB).

Purpose:

This MOU is entered into in contemplation of the parties directing their collective effort to acquire for the public and manage for wildlife habitat protection and restoration and for compatible recreational uses the 25,000± acres in Del Norte County, generally called the Mill Creek/Stimson Timber Lands.

Non-binding Nature of MOU:

This MOU is not intended to be binding on any of the parties to expend funds or to undertake specific actions on any of the activities outlined in this MOU. Rather, the MOU is intended to reflect the parties' conceptual agreement on methods for carrying out the purpose set forth above.

Additional Background:

The Save-the-Redwoods League (SRL) anticipates obtaining an option to purchase the Mill Creek lands for \$60 million, which, for purposes of this MOU, is presumed to be fair market value. SRL presently has available for donation toward a public purchase of the Mill Creek lands a total of \$15 million in private funds.

The property is bounded generally on the west by Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, on the north by Redwoods National Park and Jedediah Smith State Park and on the east by the Six Rivers National Forest as illustrated on attached Mill Creek Vicinity Map (illustration 1).

The World Wildlife Fund has recently identified the California northcoast redwood region as a globally significant eco-region. This status was determined after a worldwide assessment where conservation status was based on biological distinctiveness, habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, degree of protection and threats.

The Jedediah Smith / Del Norte Redwoods Park areas are one of three large blocks of protected remaining old-growth redwood forest in the northcoast. However, all three are at risk in being permanently fragmented. The Mill Creek property appears to be the only truly viable opportunity to link large blocks of Northern California coastal forest eco-systems.

The Mill Creek watershed is a critical refugia for coho salmon due to the relatively intact aquatic habitat that is likely to respond well to focused restorative efforts, and the existence of a vigorous self-sustaining run of coho salmon. The DFG has determined that in terms of watershed protection and recovery needs of coho salmon throughout their range in coastal California, Mill Creek is the highest priority watershed for long term preservation and habitat improvement.

The DFG has determined that Mill Creek supports the most significant run of coho salmon in the entire Smith River watershed and constitutes the nucleus of the coho population from which to rebuild adjacent nearby coastal streams.

Mill Creek supports several unique floral communities including old-growth forest types which support marbled murrelets, northern spotted owls, bald hill prairies, grand fir forest, Sitka spruce forest and serpentine outcrops, which support numerous threatened and endangered plants.

There is significant academic interest in conducting long term research into the full recovery of anadromous fish populations and the response of botanical resources to a change in land-use practices, including management of conifers for late-seral/old-growth stage characteristics.

Mill Creek could be potentially co-managed by several state departments including DFG and DPR to demonstrate the management of forest land for multiple public values, including, recreation, protection of water quality, fish, wildlife, and biological diversity, the restoration of natural forest conditions, public education, aesthetic enjoyment, and community economic and social benefits.

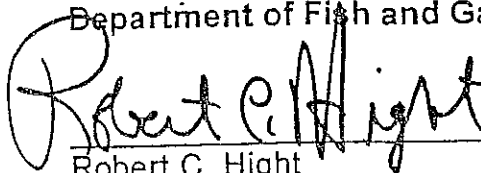
The Parties Agree in Concept to the Following:

- A. DPR would, assuming the property is purchased, have jurisdiction over the property for operation and maintenance and management purposes.
- B. Public acquisition of the property will provide significant benefits to the general public and will help each of the parties carry out their respective programs and respective mandates.
- C. The parties agree to use their best efforts to secure sufficient funding, whether from private sources, state or federal sources or others, to contribute toward the completion of the purchase of the Mill Creek property.
- D. The parties will each have the ability to provide input to DPR during its development of a management plan for the property. The parties contemplate the management plan will address the suitability of the property for fisheries, wildlife habitat restoration, and recreation including public fishing access.
- E. The parties contemplate that proper wildlife habitat management and restoration may include, to some extent, tree and brush removal. This does not include forestry for the sake of revenue generation, but may include forestry for the purpose of

improving wildlife habitat, e.g. in areas where the current land owner has stock areas for commercial timber purposes.

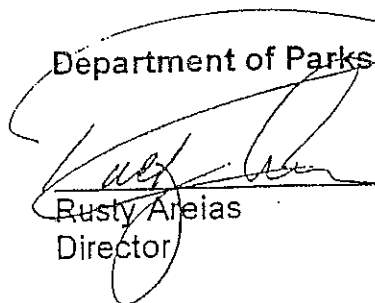
F. WCB anticipates DPR may request WCB funding of public fishing access facilities and fisheries and wildlife habitat improvements; and WCB agrees in concept that funding such projects on the Mill Creek property is a proper and effective use of WCB's public access and fisheries and wildlife habitat improvement funding.

Department of Fish and Game


Robert C. Hight
Director

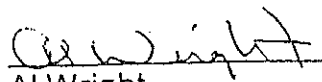
Date: 5-1-01

Department of Parks and Recreation


Rusty Areias
Director

Date: 5/1/01

Wildlife Conservation Board


Al Wright
Executive Director

Date: April 25, 2001

State Coastal Conservancy

William R. Ahern
Executive Officer

Date: _____



State of California • The Resources Agency

Gray Davis, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION • P.O. Box 942896 • Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Rusty Areias, Director

(916) 653-1570

JUN 21 2002

Mr. Chuck Blackburn, Chairman
Del Norte County Board of Supervisors
981 H Street, Suite 200
Crescent City, California 95531

Dear Mr. Blackburn:

The purpose of this letter is to respond to inquiries from Del Norte County by telephone and mail concerning: (1) the Board's review of the draft Interim Management Plan; and (2) the Agreement of Terms and Conditions regarding the Mill Creek Advisory Committee.

Development of the Interim Management Plan is being facilitated by Save-the-Redwoods League (SRL). My staff has spoken to Kate Anderton, Executive Director of the SRL. The League will send you a copy of the draft plan for the County's review/comment when it is ready for dissemination. Once the plan has been completed it will be transmitted to our Department. The plan is not binding. I expect the plan will be reviewed carefully by the Mill Creek Advisory Committee, which probably will not meet until after the plan has been submitted to us. The committee's review of the plan will probably be one of its first tasks. At this point, I expect that our Department will review the plan and any suggested modifications by the committee in finalizing our interim management approach.

Regarding the Mill Creek Advisory Committee and the Agreement of Terms and Conditions, the funders drafted the language calling for participation by each on the committee, but permitted additional entities to be added. It has always been believed that Del Norte County would be an important party on the committee. For that reason the County is called out specifically as a possible representative; the funders support the County's participation. You are included on the advisory committee, and will be notified when the first meeting will take place.

If you have any questions concerning these matters or others, please feel free to contact Rick Sermon at (707) 464-6101, extension 5100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ruth Coleman".

Ruth Coleman
Acting Director



MI Koch

MILL CREEK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1111 SECOND STREET, CRESCENT CITY, CA 95531
TEL: (707) 464-6101 x5100
ATTN: RICK SERMON

MEETING NOTES

Date: Tuesday January 14, 2003
Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Place: Redwood National and State Park
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

Designated Representatives

Karen Kovacs	DFG
Ernie Perry	DNC
Karyn Gear	SCC
Al Wright	WCB
Kate Anderton	SRL

Also Present

Rick Sermon	DPR
Brian Merrill	DPR
Jeff Bomke	DPR
John Kolb	DPR
Ruskin Hartley	SRL
Sharon Kramer	Stillwater Sciences

DFG – Department of Fish & Game; DNC – Del Norte County; SCC – State Coastal Conservancy; SRL – Save-the-Redwoods League; DPR – Department of Parks & Recreation.

I. Actions

- 1) The draft Charter was revised as attached and is awaiting DPR legal review.
- 2) Save-the-Redwoods League was appointed to Chair the Committee for a one-year term, subject to review in January 2004.

II. Recommendations

The Committee offers the following recommendations to DPR for priority work at Mill Creek.

1) Road Management

- a. Continue to identify and work on high priority roads.

2) Vegetation Management

- a. Focus on thinning of young stands (12-18 years) and explore feasibility of developing pilot project to assess efficacy of ecological thinning of older stands that may result in wood being available on the commercial market. Develop approach to scheduling and prioritizing work within forests stands identified as high priority.

- b. Work with DFG to develop coordinated approach to establishing vegetation plots at Mill Creek both as a baseline for current conditions and a monitoring procedure for future manipulations.

3) Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat:

- a. Focus on under-planting riparian areas with conifers to build the large woody debris of the future. Explore possibility of continuing involvement from the Civilian Conservation Core, or consider project with local school groups.

4) Public Access:

- a. Develop a pilot project to explore offering limited public access through guided tours, possibly using a concessionaire model. Build on the good start of the *Celebration Event* and upcoming *Aleutian Goose Festival*.

Research recommendations: focus research on priority areas that assist interim management, which may include the following:

- a. *Forest species mix:* identify original and current species composition as a guide to future management. Possible approaches include identification of legacy stumps and standing trees and interpretation of historic photographs. Consider importance of genetic integrity (stump sprout versus planting).
- b. *Ecological benefits of thinning:* Develop criteria to determine ecological benefits from thinning as a companion to research by commercial companies focused on volume production.
- c. *Residual stands:* conduct field surveys to determine current composition of residual stands and identify restoration benefits.
- d. *Establish baseline plots:* develop research methodology; coordinate approach with DFG project and methodology. Look at wildlife species in addition to habitat itself.

III. Request for Information, Future Presentations and topics for discussion

Next meeting will be on Thursday April 17, 2003 in Crescent City at 9 a.m. with the possibility of a field trip in the afternoon. An agenda will be circulated prior to the meeting

1) Road Management

- a. *Update:* on road inventory work and winter storm season report
- b. *Policy:* What level of road restoration is enough?
 - o Full land-form versus hydrologic decommissioning.
 - o Project cost difference over life-span of Mill Creek project.

2) Vegetation Management

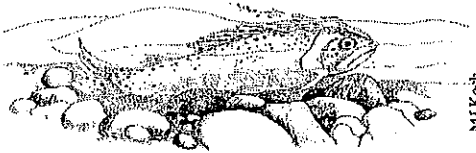
- a. *Update:* Identify priority vegetation management areas by age class and identify relationship to water courses.

3) **Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat:** none

4) **Public Access**

- a. Update on *Aleutian Goose Festival field trip* and plans for the summer.

DRAFT



MILL CREEK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1111 SECOND STREET, CRESCENT CITY, CA 95531
TEL: (707) 464-6101 x5100
ATTN: RICK SERMON

AGENDA

Date: Thursday 17 April 2003
Time: 9 a.m. to 12 noon
Place: Redwood National and State Park
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

Purpose: To update committee members regarding current activities at Mill Creek, to identify appropriate role for other groups with respect to the committee, to identify an approach to develop IMR budget, and to identify public fund support to implement ecological restoration.

	Time
1/ Committee Management 9:00	
✓▪ * Review meeting notes from last meeting	
✓▪ Committee membership	
2/ General Property Management	
✓▪ Boundary adjustment	
✓▪ Multi-year budget projection	
3/ Road Management 10:00	
✓▪ Report on winter storm activities	
✓▪ Update on survey and ongoing maintenance	
✓▪ Approach to integrating road decommissioning, management with road use	
✓▪ <i>Budget & opportunities for research</i>	
4/ Vegetation Management 10:45	
✓▪ Identify priority vegetation management areas by age class, acreage, and relationship to water course	
✓▪ Pilot restoration research project	
✓▪ <i>Budget & opportunities for research</i>	
5/ Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat 11:30	
✓▪ Salmonid monitoring report	

DRAFT

✓ Budget & opportunities for research

6 Public Access 11:40

- ✓* Report on Aleutian Goose Festival
- ✓* Summer 2003 interpretive tours
- Del Norte County Schools
- ✓* Addn alt. work schedules (wcb)
- ✓* Budget & opportunities for research

7 Committee Management 11:50

- Set next meeting date
- Meeting audit

OPRTIONAL SITE TOURS

Mill Creek – vegetation management, roads and aquatics 12 – 3:30



N.J. Koch

MILL CREEK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1111 SECOND STREET, CRESCENT CITY, CA 95531
TEL: (707) 464-6101 x5100
ATTN: RICK SERMON

MEETING NOTES

Date: Thursday April 17, 2003
Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Place: Redwood National and State Park
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

Designated Representatives*

Kate Anderton	SRL
Dave Finigan	DNC
Karyn Gear	SCC
Karen Kovacs	DFG
Al Wright	WCB

Also Present

Valerie Gizinski	DPR
Ruskin Hartley	SRL
Chris Heppe	RNP
John Kolb	DPR
Vicki Ozaki	NPS
Dan Porter	SRL
Andy Ringgold	NPS
Rick Sermon	DPR

*DFG – California Department of Fish and Game; SCC – State Coastal Conservancy; DNC – Del Norte County;
WCB – Wildlife Conservation Board; SRL – Save-the-Redwoods League; DPR – Department of Parks and Recreation;
NPS – National Park Service (Redwood National Park)

I. Action & Consensus

[if applicable]

WHAT

WHEN

WHO

- 1) DFG, DNC, SCC, SRL and WCB approved the draft charter.
DPR to obtain legal review of draft charter by legal counsel
prior to next Advisory Committee meeting. 7/24/03 DPR (Rick Sermon)
- 2) The Committee to remain a small core group as established in the charter. Utilize 'working groups' to focus expertise and advise regarding specific topics. Committee will provide advice and guidance initially to DPR, and to NPS if and when the boundary is adjusted to include Mill Creek within the Redwood National Park boundary.
- 3) The Committee to prepare a briefing paper on cooperative management by DPR and NPS within the Redwood National & State Parks boundary. Objective of the paper is to educate Supervisors and Legislatures regarding the management partnership. Describe what a boundary expansion would 7/24/03

allow with regard to management at Mill Creek.

- | | | | |
|----|--|---------|---------|
| a. | Rick Sermon (DPR) and Andy Ringgold (NPS) to write the paper, with input from other committee members. | | DPR/NPS |
| b. | Paper to be circulated and approved via email in advance of the next meeting. | | all |
| c. | DNC requested that DPR and NPS appear before the Board of Supervisors to present the paper and discuss joint DPR / NPS management. | | DPR/NPS |
| d. | Following presentation to Board of Supervisors, the Committee to approach Senator Thompson to request assistance on including the Mill Creek property within the boundary of Redwood National Park. | | all |
| 4) | The Committee to prepare a briefing paper outlining ecological restoration and management at Mill Creek. Paper to discuss the benefits of a multi-year restoration plan and budget. | 7/24/03 | SRL |
| a. | Members of the committee to circulate the paper among state, federal and private funding sources to assess interest and initiate work. | | all |
| 5) | SRL to provide recording information for the Mill Creek property acquisition to DNC. | 4/30/03 | SRL |
| 6) | Committee to prepare an analysis of Proposition 12 acquisition funds. Certain Proposition 12 funds required the Director to make a finding that the park unit to which an acquisition was added had no deferred maintenance. | 7/24/03 | SRL |

II. Recommendations

The Committee offers the following recommendations to DPR for priority work at Mill Creek.

General Recommendations

- a. Develop a multi-year budget for ecological restoration that integrates all aspects of property management.
- b. Prepare report for elected officials and key stakeholders highlighting ongoing project success and challenges in the first year since purchase. Host workshop to demonstrate the work being conducted.

1) Road Management

- a. Adopt the Redwood National Park's Redwood Creek road evaluation and decommissioning process for integrating road use, decommissioning, and ecological restoration at Mill Creek.

2) Vegetation Management

- a. Design a hypothesis-driven approach to high priority vegetation management. Identify potential areas for replicates of variable density biodiversity thinning treatments. Secure funding to implement projects.
- b. In addition to collecting baseline data on existing conditions within vegetation plots, collect baseline data on associated plant and wildlife elements prior to implementing vegetation management treatments.
- c. Approach USFWS for input and advice on vegetation management necessary in the short term to promote restoration of late seral forest characteristics. Get USFWS to help design and implement baseline studies to monitor progress.
- d. Collaborate with DFG on developing replicable monitoring standards and protocols. Consider linking to DFG's pilot project that is developing monitoring standards. Contact: Dave Smith, DFG's Redding office (has been working in statistically valid sample design). DFG has contracted with HSU students for monitoring work through UC Davis.
- e. Mark Jameson, manager of Jackson Demonstration State Forest, has offered assistance and advice in developing and implementing vegetation management at Mill Creek.

3) Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat:

- a. Coordinate with DFG, Redwood Sciences Lab, UC Davis and UC Berkeley staff to guide the collection of baseline data on sensitive plants and animals. Coordinate with staff in designing monitoring plans for aquatic and terrestrial elements.
- b. Consider surveying aquatic habitat types.

4) Public Access:

- a. Organize a follow up meeting for the public. Provide an update on current projects and upcoming projects.

Research recommendations: focus research on priority areas that assist interim management, which may include the following:

- a. *Large woody debris in streams:* Identify differences in the composition and size distribution of large woody debris in streams between Mill Creek and other redwood parks. Reference this information to guide management decisions regarding in-stream placement and management of large woody debris at Mill Creek.

- b. *Historic vegetation pattern:* Interpret historic vegetation from combination aerial photographs, timber harvest documentation, oral histories, and legacy features to develop restoration goals.
- c. *Turbidity monitoring:* DPR staff have submitted a \$1.5M grant application to implement turbidity monitoring at Bull Creek, Mill Creek and Jedediah Smith.

III. Request for Information, Future Presentations and topics for discussion

Next meeting will be on Thursday July 24, 2003 in Crescent City at 9 a.m. with the possibility of a field trip in the afternoon. An agenda will be circulated prior to the meeting.

General

- a. Report on planning schedule and multi-year budget: interim versus long-term. Include identification of an upper limit to restoration funds that could be effectively implemented by DPR in any given time period.

1) Road Management

- a. *Update:* on road inventory and repair work.

2) Vegetation Management

- a. *Update:* SRL funding source(s) for planning and pilot project implementation.
- b. *Update:* Literature review on management tools used to promote "old forest" conditions.

3) Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat:

- a. *Update:* Examples of aquatic and terrestrial monitoring plans; proposed methods for the collection of baseline data.

4) Public Access

- a. *Update:* DPR's summer interpretive programs at Mill Creek.

Vegetation management objectives

- Identify and prioritize young, second-growth conifer stands where silvicultural treatments would accelerate development of late-successional characteristics.
- Identify and prioritize areas where vegetation management would reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.
- Identify areas affected by plant pathogens and appropriate treatments.

Aquatic and terrestrial habitat protection objectives

- Protect rare and important plant species and vegetation communities.
- Protect and enhance important existing and potential habitat for special status aquatic and terrestrial species.
- Protect and enhance aquatic habitats for anadromous and resident salmonids.

Access and use objectives

- Identify suitable areas for interim public access and use.
- Identify opportunities for environmental education.
- Identify research and monitoring needs.

1.4 Regulatory Context

The IMR for the Mill Creek property describes specific interim management objectives and recommended actions for attaining these objectives. Objectives and recommendations were developed to prioritize future management actions and provide information necessary for DPR to develop a CEQA compliant general plan and implement site-specific projects. In the interim period, prior to adoption of a General Plan by DPR, actions may be limited by Public Resources Code 5002.2 (c):

"...The Department is not required to prepare a general plan or to revise an existing plan, as the case may be, if the only development contemplated by the Department consists of the repair, replacement, or rehabilitation of an existing facility; the construction of a temporary facility, so long as such construction does not result in the permanent commitment of a resource of the unit; any undertaking necessary for the protection of public health or safety; or any emergency measure necessary for the immediate protection of natural or cultural resources; or any combination thereof at a single unit. Any development is subject to the requirements of the CEQA."

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The Mill Creek property IMR is (1) a scoping document for development of a general plan that will require a formal CEQA process prior to adoption by DPR and (2) a tiering document for future site-specific projects that may individually require a formal CEQA process prior to implementation. The CEQA process informs governmental decision-makers and the public about potentially significant environmental effects of proposed activities and identifies actions that reduce adverse environmental effects below a level of significance. An initial study is conducted to determine if the project may directly or indirectly result in significant adverse environment effects. The initial study has three potential outcomes: (1) significant adverse effects, (2) significant adverse effects that can be mitigated to no significance, and (3) no significant adverse effects. If the project may have significant adverse effects, an Environmental Impact Report must be prepared. If the project will not cause significant adverse effects, a negative declaration is prepared. If the project may have significant adverse effects, but revisions to the project would avoid or mitigate the effects to a point of no significance, a mitigated negative declaration is prepared. State projects that do not have the potential for significant adverse effects may qualify for a Categorical Exemption from CEQA (Chapter 19 of the CEQA guidelines).

given out @ 4/17/03
meeting

AGREEMENT OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

THIS AGREEMENT OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS (this "Agreement") is made as of May 6, 2002, by and between the State of California, acting by and through the Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR") with the approvals of the Director of the Department of General Services and the State Public Works Board, the State Coastal Conservancy ("CC"), the California Wildlife Conservation Board ("WCB"), the California Department of Fish and Game ("DFG"), and Save-the-Redwoods League, a California nonprofit organization ("League") with reference to the following facts:

WHEREAS, DPR will acquire directly from Stimson Lumber Company, an Oregon Corporation ("Seller"), the real property (the "Property") located in the County of Del Norte, State of California and described in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein with the funding assistance of the League and the other parties to this Agreement;

WHEREAS, the purchase price of the Property is \$60,000,000, of which DPR will pay Seller \$10,000,000, to be funded from the 2000 Bond Fund, Habitat Acquisition Program, via Chapter 10601, Item 3790-301-0005 (29), as its contribution for the acquisition, which is 17% of the value of the Property, and the League will pay Seller \$50,000,000, which is 83% of the value of the Property, of which 65% is grant funding from various state sources; and

WHEREAS, the League's portion of the purchase price will include funds provided through private donations and miscellaneous private and public sources including grants from CC, WCB, DFG and the League are hereafter collectively referred to as the "Funders").

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual promises of the parties hereto, the receipt and adequacy of which is hereby acknowledged, the said parties hereby agree as follows:

1. Primary Goal of the Property:

The intent of this Agreement is to provide for a broad array of park and other public uses that are compatible with the primary goal that the Property shall be restored to late seral forest characteristics and associated natural functions that maximize benefits to the salmonid species of its streams and wildlife associated with late seral forest. Vegetative management may be undertaken in order to accelerate achieving these goals. This Agreement calls for avoidance of negative impacts and for minimization of impacts through careful siting, management and operation. Public access and improvements on the Property will be sited, managed and operated in a manner that is compatible with, and that has minimal impacts on, the primary goal. DFG shall have access to the Property for purposes of fish and wildlife monitoring, restoration and management.

2. Uses on the Property:

As with other parks, the use and management of this Property shall be governed by the General Plan, which shall be developed to attain the Primary Goal of the Property as set forth in paragraph 1 of this Agreement.

General plans are developed for all parks and indicate what uses, management and development are appropriate. Section 5002.2(a) of the Public Resources Code reads, "Following classification or reclassification of a unit by the State Park and Recreation Commission, and prior to the development of new facilities in any previously classified unit, the department shall prepare a general plan for the unit. The general plan shall consist of elements that will evaluate and define the proposed land uses, facilities, concessions, operation of the unit, any environmental impacts, and the management of resources, and shall serve as a guide for the future development, management, and operation of the unit. The general plan for a unit shall be submitted by the department to the State Park and Recreation Commission for approval." The Advisory Committee (see paragraph 3 below) shall participate in the formulation of the General Plan for the Mill Creek acquisition. Once adopted, the General Plan shall guide restoration, public uses and development of the Property. Public uses shown below are for illustrative purposes; the General Plan will address the "broad array of park and related public uses."

- a. Examples of public uses that may be sited, managed and operated in a manner that is compatible with the primary goal include, among others, campgrounds, visitor education center, research center, related administrative facilities, non-aerial fire protection and resource conservation facilities, mountain biking and horseback riding in areas consistent with State Park policy, film industry uses, concessionaire operations catering to park users, etc.

The following interpretation and public uses, permitted in the approved Redwood National and State Park General Plan (1999), which includes Jedediah Smith and Del Norte Coast Redwoods, may be appropriate for the Mill Creek addition:

- Visitor services and facilities in locations that will expand visitors' awareness of the parks' diverse resources and enhance visitors' abilities to gain access to resource and activity sites.
 - Support and facilitate appropriate public use and enjoyment of the parks and participation in activities related to the parks' resources. Provide facilities in appropriate locations to support a variety of public uses and recreational activities.
 - Provide safe opportunities for visitors to see scenic vistas and other points of interest, enjoy interpretive displays, access trails, picnic areas, and other recreational facilities on Redwood National and State Park roads.
 - Support a broad spectrum of diverse education and research activities.
- b. A portion of Highway 101 lying west of the Property may be determined to be geologically unsound and may need to be realigned. The State may, with appropriate mitigation, provide for such realignment onto the westerly most portion of the Property if the following requirements are satisfied:
 - (i) all practical alternatives to realignment of Highway 101 onto the westerly portion of Property have been evaluated and rejected on a sound basis; and

- (ii) the State has made a reasonable finding that use of the westerly portion of the Property for realignment of Highway 101 is a more necessary public use than the uses set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 above.

3. Establishment and Role of Advisory Committee:

Upon transfer of the Property to DPR, an Advisory Committee shall be established to advise DPR on the development and implementation of interim and long-term management plans or General Plan for the Property consistent with the primary goal for the Property and the terms of this Agreement. The Advisory Committee shall include representatives of the Funders, and may include such other entities as DPR, and the Funders shall from time-to-time identify and agree, including, for example, representatives of the County of Del Norte. The Advisory Committee shall develop procedures for the conduct of the Advisory Committee, including the procedure for reaching and documenting agreement on recommendations and their implementation and for resolution of disputes within the committee, that are mutually agreeable to DPR and the Funders. Any member of the Advisory Committee may withdraw therefrom upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other parties to this Agreement.

Management direction affecting the Property will be determined by DPR in consultation with the Advisory Committee. DPR will consult regularly with the Advisory Committee on management plans and priorities, and will provide written justification for any decisions that deviate from the Committee's advice.

4. Funding recognition:

DPR agrees that it will acknowledge the funding participation of the Funders in an appropriate manner at the Property, and further agrees that signage acknowledging funding will meet the guidelines and requirements of the 2000 Parks Bond Act developed by the California Resources Agency and any other signage requirements of the public funding sources used to acquire the Property.

5. Conformance with laws:

In carrying out the purposes for the Property as provided for in this Agreement, DPR shall administer the Property in accordance with applicable laws. The parties to this Agreement acknowledge that, among other laws governing its stewardship of the Property, DPR is required by Public Resources Code Sections 5002.1, 5002.2, 5002.3, and 5019.50 to implement a classification and general planning process prior to developing facilities.

6. Property as security:

The State shall not use the Property as security for any debt or for State mitigation. The Property may be a receiver site for mitigation funding or banking.

7. Consent for transfer of interest in Property:

DPR shall not transfer all or any portion or interest in the Property without the prior written approval of the Executive Officer of the CC, the WCB and the DFG, or their respective

successors, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. The League shall be given written notice of the terms of any such transfer at least ninety (90) days in advance thereof.

8. Continuation of obligations:

Unless this Agreement is terminated with respect to all or any portion of the Property by all of the parties or as otherwise provided by law, the obligations set forth in this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect in perpetuity. The terms, conditions and restrictions of this Agreement shall be binding on and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective successors in interest; and the Property shall hereafter be held, transferred, sold, leased, conveyed and occupied subject to the obligations set forth herein.

9. Entire Agreement of the Parties:

This Agreement sets forth the entire understanding of the parties with respect to the subject matter herein, and supersedes any and all prior negotiations, discussions, agreements, and understandings between the parties regarding the subject matter herein.

10. Amendment and resolution of disputes:

This Agreement may be modified or amended only by a written agreement executed by all parties or their respective successors in interest. The parties recognize that future circumstances may require good faith negotiations to implement the intent of this Agreement. The parties agree to negotiate in good faith about any disputed issue arising under this Agreement by any party.

11. No rights in third parties:

This Agreement creates no rights on the part of the general public or in any person or entity not a party to this Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement will be construed to confer on any person or entity, other than the parties hereto, any benefit hereunder or any right to enforce the terms hereof. Nothing in this Agreement creates any right on the part of the Funders or any other third party to revenues, if any, generated by the Property.

12. Recording of Memorandum of Unrecorded Agreement:

The parties agree that a Memorandum of Unrecorded Agreement referencing this Agreement shall be recorded in the official records of Del Norte County immediately upon transfer of title to the Property to DPR.

13. Governing law/Execution in Counterparts:

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California and may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which, together, shall constitute one and the same instrument.

14. **Severability:**

If any provision of the Agreement is found invalid or void, the rest of the Agreement remains as if written without the voided section(s).

15. **Effective date of Agreement:**

This Agreement, executed as of the date hereof, shall take effect immediately upon transfer of title to the Property to DPR.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the date first appearing above.


STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Acting by and through the Department
of Parks and Recreation

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____


Chief Deputy Director
Administrative Services

MAY 23 2002

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Acting by and through the Wildlife
Conservation Board

By: _____

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Acting by and through the Coastal
Conservancy

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Acting by and through the
Department of Fish and Game

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

SAVE-THE-REDWOODS LEAGUE

(Signatures continued on next page)

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Acting by and through the Department
of Parks and Recreation

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Acting by and through the Wildlife
Conservation Board

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Acting by and through the Coastal
Conservancy

By: Sam M. Hurbat

Title: Executive Officer

Date: 5/15/02

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Acting by and through the
Department of Fish and Game

By: _____

SAVE-THE-REDWOODS LEAGUE

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

(Signatures continued on next page)

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Acting by and through the Department
of Parks and Recreation

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Acting by and through the Wildlife
Conservation Board

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Acting by and through the Coastal
Conservancy

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Acting by and through the
Department of Fish and Game

By: _____

SAVE-THE-REDWOODS LEAGUE

By: Kathleen O'Leary

Title: Secretary and Executive Director

Date: May 14, 2002

(Signatures continued on next page)

14. Severability:

If any provision of the Agreement is found invalid or void, the rest of the Agreement remains as if written without the voided section(s).

15. Effective date of Agreement:

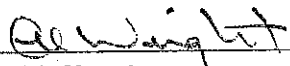
This Agreement, executed as of the date hereof, shall take effect immediately upon transfer of title to the Property to DPR.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the date first appearing above.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Acting by and through the Department
of Parks and Recreation

By: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Acting by and through the Wildlife
Conservation Board



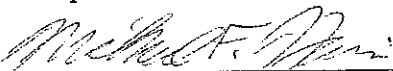
Al Wright
Executive Director

May 14, 2002

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Acting by and through the Coastal
Conservancy

By: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Acting by and through the
Department of Fish and Game

By: 

Michael F. Harris
Deputy Director of Administration

May 15, 2002

SAVE-THE-REDWOODS LEAGUE

By: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

(Signatures continued on next page)

APPROVED:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PUBLIC WORKS BOARD

By: James T. Anderson

Title: Assistant Administrative Secretary

Date: May 24, 2002

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
GENERAL SERVICES

By: D. J. V. Weather

Title: Real Estate Services Division

Date: May 24, 2002



The Redwood National and State Parks cooperative management agreement is widely viewed as an exemplary model of interagency cooperative management. It combines the strengths of California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) and National Park Service (NPS) to facilitate seamless management of the world-class redwood parks of Del Norte County and Humboldt County.

Milestones towards cooperative management

- 1968: Legislation creating Redwood National Park includes Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park within its boundaries.
- 1994: CDPR and the NPS enter into an agreement establishing a framework for cooperative management of the four redwood parks as Redwood National and State Parks (RNPS).
- 1998: *Congressional Interior Appropriation Act* authorizes NPS to enter into agreements with state agencies for cooperative management of RNPS.
- 2000: NPS and CDPR complete a joint agency General Management Plan to guide future management and protection of RNPS.
- 2003: NPS seeks Congressional approval to expand the Redwood National Park boundary to include the Mill Creek property.

What a boundary adjustment will do

- *Allow incorporation of the Mill Creek property into the existing RNPS General Management Plan through a plan amendment.* This enables implementation of long-term resource protection and enhancement projects, and development of public access.
- *Contribute significant NPS expertise and technical resources.* Joint planning, management and project implementation at Mill Creek will benefit from NPS staff expertise.
- *Expedite consultation with Federal Regulatory agencies.* Endangered species consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fishery Service is more efficiently accomplished through NPS rather than directly by CDPR.

What a boundary adjustment will not do

- *It does not affect ownership.* Land will still be owned by the State of California.
- *It does not eliminate or weaken State regulatory requirements.* Projects require the same level of consultation and approval.
- *It does not eliminate or weaken County regulatory requirements:* Projects require the same level of consultation and approval.
- *It does not amend management objectives.* State Park lands will still be managed to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation – which is the mission of the CDPR.



MILL CREEK

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1111 SECOND STREET, CRESCENT CITY, CA 95531

TEL: (707) 464-6101 x5100

ATTN: RICK SERMON

AGENDA

Date: Thursday 24 July 2003

Time: 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Place: Redwood National and State Park

1111 Second Street

Crescent City, CA 95531

Purpose: To update committee members regarding current activities at Mill Creek, to present and seek input on a framework for a multi-year project budget, and to identify funds to implement ecological restoration.

		Time
1	COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT	9:00
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ * Review notes from last meeting 	
2	INFORMATION UPDATES	9:15
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General Property Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary adjustment ▪ Road Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on survey and ongoing maintenance ▪ Vegetation Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pilot restoration research project ▪ Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salmonid monitoring report ▪ Public Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer 2003 interpretive tours • Mill Creek seminar • Del Norte County Schools 	
3	DISCUSSION	10:00
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multi-year budget projection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sources of funding, opportunities for research, hurdles to success.</i> • Road Management 	

- Vegetation Management
- Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat
- Public Access

4 COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT

11:50

- Set next meeting date
- Meeting audit

* Indicates supporting material enclosed



MILL CREEK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1111 SECOND STREET, CRESCENT CITY, CA 95531
TEL: (707) 464-6101 x5100
ATTN: RICK SERMON

MEETING NOTES

Date: Thursday July 24, 2003
Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Place: Redwood National and State Park
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

Designated Representatives*

Kate Anderton	SRL
Dave Finnigan	DNC
Karyn Gear	SCC
Larry Preston	DFG

Also Present

Rick Sermon	DPR
Ruskin Hartley	SRL
Dan Porter	SRL
Cathy Cook	NPS

*DFG – California Department of Fish and Game; SCC – State Coastal Conservancy; DNC – Del Norte County;
WCB – Wildlife Conservation Board; SRL – Save-the-Redwoods League; DPR – Department of Parks and Recreation;
NPS – National Park Service (Redwood National Park)

I. Action & Consensus

- 1) DPR approved the draft charter following review from legal counsel. DFG, DNC, SCC, SRL and WCB indicated their approval at the last Committee meeting. The designated representatives agreed that no signatures are required.
- 2) The Committee reviewed and concurred that use of the SRL prepared multi-year budget framework was useful. Designated representatives will work with SRL to develop budget projection and identify limiting factors that may constrain DPR's ability to absorb funding for particular project areas.

II. Recommendations

The Committee offers the following recommendations to DPR for priority work at Mill Creek.

General Recommendations

- a. Consider establishing a separate non-profit, focused exclusively on Mill Creek, to administer restoration funds and coordinate projects. An organization focused exclusively on Mill Creek would likely be well received by the public.
- b. Work with the Del Norte County Mill Creek negotiating team to increase understanding on the Board of Supervisors of what a boundary adjustment would mean for management at Mill Creek.

- c. Obtain funding sources summary tables recently generated by the Humboldt Bay Watershed Council.
- d. Identify state, federal or private funding sources for the development of the anticipated General Plan amendment required for specific management activities at Mill Creek.
- e. Anticipate and address public perception obstacles regarding the General Plan amendment.
- f. Follow up on possible funding available through the Northwest Forest Initiative – Option 9. DNC indicates not all the funds designated for the County were distributed.
- g. Highlight local training opportunities associated with resource management.

1) Road Management

- a. Based on the comprehensive road inventory being conducted by DPR, determine the total miles of road requiring treatment. Create a multi-year work schedule that prioritizes road segments needing attention based on the risk to the resource. Develop a multi-year budget that outlines funding needs for each year of work.

2) Vegetation Management

- a. Evaluate WCB funding criteria as it relates to improving fish habitat using vegetation management.
- b. Investigate potential federal funding (e.g. USFWS) for the protection and enhancement of T&E species habitats using vegetation management.
- c. Identify funding sources associated with the federally sponsored Healthy Forests Initiative. Determine whether such funds can be appropriately applied to Mill Creek vegetation management projects
- d. Outline possible volunteer restoration projects with Volunteer Coordinator John Swabe (CDFG). Consider the same for Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat protection or improvement projects.

3) Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat

- a. Investigate and support efforts to streamline contract administration processes associated with biological monitoring at Mill Creek. Consider consolidating monitoring efforts for multiple resources into a single organization.
- b. Track and support legislation submitted by Congressman Chesborough that would enable longer-term resource monitoring contracts.
- c. Follow up with Larry Preston and/or Gary Flosee regarding emergency funds available for low cost (e.g. <\$10,000) projects focused on fixing structures that have been shown to degrade aquatic habitat. Emergency culvert replacement and the pulling of old crossings are examples.

- d. Track the development of the CDFG sponsored Coastal Salmon Working Group. Recommend to the working group that Mill Creek be included as a permanent part of the monitoring framework, thus continuing the long-term fisheries monitoring for this stream.
- e. Identify funding for the Mill Creek juvenile out-migration trapping and juvenile abundance dive count work is funded for 2005 and 2006.
- f. Identify opportunities to harmonize existing state survey requirements for sensitive biological resources with proposed research and/or monitoring proposals. Consider consolidating multiple funding resources to compile baseline occurrence information that will guide future management decisions. Contacts: Rick Rayburn, Valerie Gizinski, Steven Veirs and Mary Ann Madej.
- g. Confirm with DPR/NPS that marbled murrelet and northern spotted owl surveys have continued since the acquisition. Identify gaps in survey data.
- h. Investigate the availability of Proposition 40 funds available for habitat protection. Do the same for USFWS funds.

4) Public Access

- a. Identify funding sources and contacts that would facilitate funding of public access projects. Possible funding sources include: Harbor Master Plan (SCC), EPA Block Grants, River Parkway. Evaluate funding criteria associated with disadvantaged communities; evaluate funding criteria tied to population centers. Focus on bringing new funds into the community.
- b. Identify and contact community organizations interested in providing input during the development of public access projects.

Research Recommendations:

None noted.

III. Request for Information, Future Presentations and topics for discussion

Next meeting will be on Thursday October 30th, 2003 in Crescent City at 9 a.m. with the possibility of a field trip in the afternoon. An agenda will be circulated prior to the meeting.

Suggested topics for future discussion include:

1) General

- a. Determine whether if Mill Creek is added to an existing park, e.g. Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, whether it can be managed consistent with guidelines for roads, vegetation and T&E species under the existing GP/GMP without an amendment. It is recognized that development of recreation facilities would require a GP amendment.

- a. Update on draft management and ecological restoration multi-year budget.
- b. Designated representatives to provide the Committee the contacts and information needed to identify and pursue funding resources for management projects.
- c. SCC to provide the Committee information regarding Proposition 50 funds designated for watershed restoration.

2) Road Management

- a. Discussion of road decommissioning standards (full landform, road-stream crossing removal, etc.). If available, circulate road inventory report prior to the next Advisory Committee meeting.

3) Vegetation Management

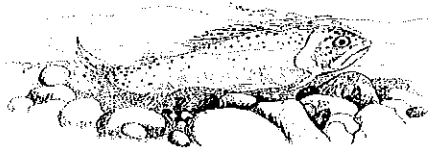
- a. Present methods and preliminary results of pilot vegetation management project implemented in September of 2003.

4) Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat

- a. Provide a summary of results from juvenile out migration trapping and juvenile abundance dive count data collected in 2003.

5) Public Access

- a. Provide an update on late summer docent tours and new projects



Mill Creek

MILL CREEK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1111 SECOND STREET, CRESCENT CITY, CA 95531
TEL: (707) 464-6101 x5100
ATTN: RICK SERMON

AGENDA

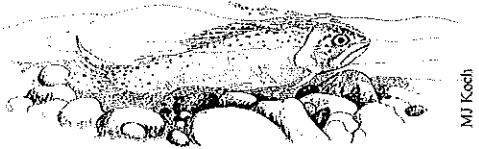
Date: Thursday 30 October 2003
Time: Meeting: 9 a.m. to 12 noon
Fieldtrip: 12 noon to 3 pm
Place: Redwood National and State Park
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

Purpose: To update committee members regarding current activities at Mill Creek, to discuss and seek input on a road decommissioning standards, to discuss a range of restoration implementation strategies, and to identify funds to implement ecological restoration.

		Time
1	COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT	9:00
	▪ * Review notes from last meeting	
2	INFORMATION UPDATES	9:15
	▪ General Property Management	
	• DPR Budget	
	▪ Road Management	
	• Update on survey and ongoing maintenance	
	▪ Vegetation Management	
	• Pilot restoration research project	
	▪ Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat	
	• Salmonid monitoring report	
	▪ Public Access	
	• Summer 2003 interpretive tours	
	• Winter 2003 interpretive tours	
3	DISCUSSION	10:00
	▪ Road Management (1 hour)	
	• Road survey results & decommissioning standards	
	• Presentation led by Don Beers and Brian Merrill	
	• Budget implications	
	▪ Implementation – developing local capacity (50 minutes)	

- | | | |
|---|---|-------|
| 4 | COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT | 11:50 |
| | ▪ Set next meeting date | |
| | ▪ Meeting audit | |
| 5 | FIELD TRIP | 12:00 |
| | ▪ Vegetation Management | |
| | • <i>Lunch (provided) at first stop</i> | |
| 6 | ADJOURN | 3:00 |

* Indicates supporting material enclosed



MILL CREEK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1111 SECOND STREET, CRESCENT CITY, CA 95531
TEL: (707) 464-6101 x5100
ATTN: RICK SERMON

MEETING NOTES

Date: Thursday July 24, 2003
Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Place: Redwood National and State Park
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

Designated Representatives*

Kate Anderton	SRL
Dave Finnigan	DNC
Karyn Gear	SCC
Larry Preston	DFG

Also Present

Rick Sermon	DPR
Ruskin Hartley	SRL
Dan Porter	SRL
Cathy Cook	NPS

*DFG – California Department of Fish and Game; SCC – State Coastal Conservancy; DNC – Del Norte County;
WCB – Wildlife Conservation Board; SRL – Save-the-Redwoods League; DPR – Department of Parks and Recreation;
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I. Action & Consensus

- 1) DPR approved the draft charter following review from legal counsel. DFG, DNC, SCC, SRL and WCB indicated their approval at the last Committee meeting. The designated representatives agreed that no signatures are required.
- 2) The Committee reviewed and concurred that use of the SRL prepared multi-year budget framework was useful. Designated representatives will work with SRL to develop budget projection and identify limiting factors that may constrain DPR's ability to absorb funding for particular project areas.

II. Recommendations

The Committee offers the following recommendations to DPR for priority work at Mill Creek.

General Recommendations

- a. Consider establishing a separate non-profit, focused exclusively on Mill Creek, to administer restoration funds and coordinate projects. An organization focused exclusively on Mill Creek would likely be well received by the public.
- b. Work with the Del Norte County Mill Creek negotiating team to increase understanding on the Board of Supervisors of what a boundary adjustment would mean for management at Mill Creek.

- c. Obtain funding sources summary tables recently generated by the Humboldt Bay Watershed Council.
- d. Identify state, federal or private funding sources for the development of the anticipated General Plan amendment required for specific management activities at Mill Creek.
- e. Anticipate and address public perception obstacles regarding the General Plan amendment.
- f. Follow up on possible funding available through the Northwest Forest Initiative – Option 9. DNC indicates not all the funds designated for the County were distributed.
- g. Highlight local training opportunities associated with resource management.

1) Road Management

- a. Based on the comprehensive road inventory being conducted by DPR, determine the total miles of road requiring treatment. Create a multi-year work schedule that prioritizes road segments needing attention based on the risk to the resource. Develop a multi-year budget that outlines funding needs for each year of work.

2) Vegetation Management

- a. Evaluate WCB funding criteria as it relates to improving fish habitat using vegetation management.
- b. Investigate potential federal funding (e.g. USFWS) for the protection and enhancement of T&E species habitats using vegetation management.
- c. Identify funding sources associated with the federally sponsored Healthy Forests Initiative. Determine whether such funds can be appropriately applied to Mill Creek vegetation management projects
- d. Outline possible volunteer restoration projects with Volunteer Coordinator John Swabe (CDFG). Consider the same for Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat protection or improvement projects.

3) Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat

- a. Investigate and support efforts to streamline contract administration processes associated with biological monitoring at Mill Creek. Consider consolidating monitoring efforts for multiple resources into a single organization.
- b. Track and support legislation submitted by Congressman Chesborough that would enable longer-term resource monitoring contracts.
- c. Follow up with Larry Preston and/or Gary Flosee regarding emergency funds available for low cost (e.g. <\$10,000) projects focused on fixing structures that have been shown to degrade aquatic habitat. Emergency culvert replacement and the pulling of old crossings are examples.

- d. Track the development of the CDFG sponsored Coastal Salmon Working Group. Recommend to the working group that Mill Creek be included as a permanent part of the monitoring framework, thus continuing the long-term fisheries monitoring for this stream.
- e. Identify funding for the Mill Creek juvenile out-migration trapping and juvenile abundance dive count work is funded for 2005 and 2006.
- f. Identify opportunities to harmonize existing state survey requirements for sensitive biological resources with proposed research and/or monitoring proposals. Consider consolidating multiple funding resources to compile baseline occurrence information that will guide future management decisions. Contacts: Rick Rayburn, Valerie Gizinski, Steven Veirs and Mary Ann Madej.
- g. Confirm with DPR/NPS that marbled murrelet and northern spotted owl surveys have continued since the acquisition. Identify gaps in survey data.
- h. Investigate the availability of Proposition 40 funds available for habitat protection. Do the same for USFWS funds.

4) Public Access

- a. Identify funding sources and contacts that would facilitate funding of public access projects. Possible funding sources include: Harbor Master Plan (SCC), EPA Block Grants, River Parkway. Evaluate funding criteria associated with disadvantaged communities; evaluate funding criteria tied to population centers. Focus on bringing new funds into the community.
- b. Identify and contact community organizations interested in providing input during the development of public access projects.

Research Recommendations:

None noted.

III. Request for Information, Future Presentations and topics for discussion

Next meeting will be on Thursday October 30th, 2003 in Crescent City at 9 a.m. with the possibility of a field trip in the afternoon. An agenda will be circulated prior to the meeting.

Suggested topics for future discussion include:

1) General

- a. Determine whether if Mill Creek is added to an existing park, e.g. Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, whether it can be managed consistent with guidelines for roads, vegetation and T&E species under the existing GP/GMP without an amendment. It is recognized that development of recreation facilities would require a GP amendment.

- a. Update on draft management and ecological restoration multi-year budget.
- b. Designated representatives to provide the Committee the contacts and information needed to identify and pursue funding resources for management projects.
- c. SCC to provide the Committee information regarding Proposition 50 funds designated for watershed restoration.

2) Road Management

- a. Discussion of road decommissioning standards (full landform, road-stream crossing removal, etc.). If available, circulate road inventory report prior to the next Advisory Committee meeting.

3) Vegetation Management

- a. Present methods and preliminary results of pilot vegetation management project implemented in September of 2003.

4) Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat

- a. Provide a summary of results from juvenile out migration trapping and juvenile abundance dive count data collected in 2003.

5) Public Access

- a. Provide an update on late summer docent tours and new projects



MILL CREEK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1111 SECOND STREET, CRESCENT CITY, CA 95531
TEL: (707) 464-6101 x5100
ATTN: RICK SERMON

AGENDA

Date: Thursday 25 March 2004
Time: Meeting: 9 a.m. to 12 noon
Fieldtrip: 12 noon to 3 pm
Place: Redwood National and State Park
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

Purpose: To update committee members regarding current activities at Mill Creek, to discuss and seek input on development of an integrated ecological restoration plan, and to identify funds to implement ecological restoration.

	Time
1 COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT	9:00
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Review notes from last meetingSelect Committee chair for 2004Meeting schedule for 2004	
2 INFORMATION UPDATES	9:15
<ul style="list-style-type: none">General Property Management<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pending funding requestsRoad Management<ul style="list-style-type: none">2004 scheduled projectsForest Restoration<ul style="list-style-type: none">Experimental thinning projectAquatic and Terrestrial Habitat<ul style="list-style-type: none">Salmonid monitoring reportPublic Access<ul style="list-style-type: none">Summer 2004 interpretive tours	
3 DISCUSSION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Integrated Ecological Restoration PlanProcess for developing a long-term restoration planEnvironmental permitting for restoration projects	10:00
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Coho recovery plan and Mill Creek	11:00

-
- Role of Mill Creek in implementing the coho recovery plan.
 - Developing local capacity 11:30
 - Purpose and name of proposed new non-profit support group
- 4 COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT 11:50
- Set next meeting date
 - Meeting audit
- 5 FIELD TRIP 12:00
- Road decommissioning
 - *Fourth switchback*
 - Forest restoration
 - *Experimental thinning project*
- Lunch (provided) at first stop*
- 6 ADJOURN 3:00
-

* Indicates supporting material enclosed



Mill Creek

MILL CREEK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1111 SECOND STREET, CRESCENT CITY, CA 95531
TEL: (707) 464-6101 x5100
ATTN: RICK SERMON

MEETING NOTES

Date: Thursday March 25, 2004
Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Place: Redwood National and State Park
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

Designated Representatives

Kate Anderton (KA) SRL
Dave Finigan (DF) DNC
Karyn Gear (KG) SCC
Bob McAllister (BMc) CDFG
Dave Means (DM) WCB

Also Present

Rick Sermon (RS) DPR
Bill Pierce (BP) DPR
Terry Hofstraw (TH) NPS
John Kolb (JK) DPR
Brian Merrill (BM) DPR
Valerie Gizinski (GZ) DPR
Scott Clemons (SC) WCB
Chris Howard (CH) SRAC
Dan Porter (DP) SRL
Ruskin Hartley (RH) SRL

*SRL – Save-the-Redwoods League; DNC – Del Norte County; SCC – State Coastal Conservancy; DPR – Department of Parks and Recreation; SRAC – Smith River Advisory Committee; CDFG – California Department of Fish and Game; WCB – California Wildlife Conservation Board. Scott Clemens, Dave Means and Brian Merrill attended via conference call.

I. Action & Consensus

☐ Action

- (a) The notes from the last meeting were approved by the Committee.
- (b) SRL agreed to continue to chair the Committee for 2004.
- (c) A minimum of three meetings shall be held in for the year, with the possibility of an additional meeting if work at Mill Creek would benefit from advice of the MCAC.
- (d) MCAC to write letter to Secretary of Resources supporting transition of CCC to a non-profit local conservation corp. KA to sign the letter on behalf of the committee.
- (e) Support establishment of a local non-profit organization to support the restoration and management of Mill Creek while providing opportunities for public access, education and interpretation.

✓ KA
(4/30/04)

II. Reports & Recommendations

☐ Action

The Committee offers the following recommendations to DPR for priority work at Mill Creek.

General Stewardship

- (a) JK: The state park budget was left relatively intact, however four positions were lost in the District. The Mill Creek campground may have to be closed. While no significant funding cuts were required, a 15 million dollar revenue expectation was written in and must be raised by increasing fees. Fee increases will occur this summer. The addition of positions in 2004 is unlikely.
- (b) KA: Restoration funds (\$100,000¹) have been requested from the Bella Vista Foundation, the same organization that partially supported the pilot forest restoration project. Notification is expected in April or May.

KA: Resources Legacy Fund Foundation (RLFF) grant has been awarded to SRL (\$500,000) for ecological restoration and development of a long-term Integrated Ecological Restoration Plan.

KA: A recent SRL membership appeal was met with an overwhelming response and over \$60,000² raised to support the ecological restoration of Mill Creek.

- (c) VG: \$137,000 in State Park funds is being sought in 2004 for the next phase of the forest restoration project - primarily planning and inventory funds focused on young (11-20 year) stands. An additional \$400,000 in stewardship funds are being sought for the following year (primarily implementation).
- (d) SC: The Smith River Alliance with the support of SRL is submitting a grant to WCB to support three years of ecological restoration at Mill Creek. The WCB grant application amount (approximately \$3.8 million) has tentatively been reduced by WCB by \$400,000 - \$500,000 to the low \$3 millions. The reduction is linked to CDFG supported road decommissioning standards (partial treatment versus full landform) - WCB follows CDFG lead. Board review of the application will occur during the August meeting.

SC: Grant agreement can be assigned to another entity, if the need arises - it would depend on an evaluation of the new group to successfully implement the project.

JK noted DPR's commitment to holistic ecosystem management and noted that full landform decommissioning is not much more costly than partial decommissioning and has been used extensively at Redwood National Park and elsewhere on State Park land.

TH noted that full recontour recovers the soils A-horizon and re-vegetation takes place from native seed banks, dormant in the soil.

BMc will organize a conference call or meeting involving CDFG's road standards committee (Flossey, Schwabe and Gail), DPR and other

☐ BMc

¹ SRL was awarded \$50,000 in April 2004.

² As of 4/27/04 the appeal had raised over \$150,000 with XXXX members contributing.

II. Reports & Recommendations

☐ Action

The Committee offers the following recommendations to DPR for priority work at Mill Creek.

Interested parties to discuss road decommissioning standards in general.

- (e) KG: SCC sees potential for funding ecological restoration at Mill Creek, but requires that CEQA documents are written and approved in advance of considering an application. Possible approach is initial funding for permit work, following by implementation grants.
- (f) RS noted that Mill Creek can probably be added to the State's existing General Plan for RNSP. RS is developing a 2 page amendment that is working its way through JK to DPRs plan and policy committee. Public review process is reserved for new, not existing facilities and that a public meeting must be held by the State Parks Commission before plan amendment. The Commission needs to meet in the region to take action on a plan, and is currently operating without all of its members and with a backlog of proposal. JK estimates could be 2 years before meets in region and can act on the amendment.

JK to follow up with the DPR policy group Chair (Demetrak) to determine whether process can be expedited.

☐ JK

BP will determine whether NPS needs to accept or concur with the amendment to the State's GP document.

☐ BP

Inclusion of Mill Creek in the RNP boundary will create a federal nexus and require federal consultation on all activities affecting federally listed species. JK noted that the nexus would enable DPR to obtain an incidental take statement (section 7 consultation and "no jeopardy" ruling) rather than a Habitat Consultation Plan (section 10 consultation and an incidental take permit) and can be more efficient.

- (g) RS shared a draft Vision Statement for the "Mill Creek Institute": the proposed NGO focused on the park's long-term restoration.

DF suggested adding reference to supporting public access.

☐ RS

- (h) RS: Coordinate projects involving CDFG and DPR funds to ensure work is not duplicated.

VG indicated DPR would conduct rare plant and archaeological surveys for CDFG projects and that environmental permitting for near-term forest restoration work may be included in the Negative Declaration being prepared for the road work.

DF suggested establishing a clearing house for all project work and that expenses be tracked within a single database.

- (i) DF described proposal sent to Sacramento to utilize Bottle Bill funds to establish the former California Conservation Corps (CCC), now disbanded, as a local non-profit.

JK indicated that if we are successful at transferring the capital assets and establishing, ongoing projects at Mill Creek will provide most of the operating funds.

II. Reports & Recommendations

☐ Action

The Committee offers the following recommendations to DPR for priority work at Mill Creek.

KA agreed to draft and sign a letter of support on behalf of the Committee.

☐ KA

(j) Development of a long-term integrated ecological restoration plan

KA noted that because of its size and strategic location, Mill Creek presents a special opportunity to implement landscape level restoration. Mill Creek could be a model for landscape level restoration throughout the Pacific Northwest. Consider convening a project charrette to guide long-term restoration: include "big thinkers" (e.g. E. O. Wilson) and the practical experience of DPR resource staff.

JK: DPR had gained experience developing the Sinkyone plan: coordinating road removal, fire management and invasive exotic species.

BM: Scott River Strategic Plan has attempted to reach a similar level of integration. The process has been very slow.

KG: don't fall into the trap of developing the "perfect plan" – start from the IMRs and determine what is needed to make incrementally better decisions.

Considering the amount of GIS data currently available from the previous owner, it makes sense to plan for the integration now. Updating the currently available GIS data to reflect the new purpose should be a short-term priority

JK: Professional time and resources are needed to achieve the desired level of integration. Park resource professionals know the steps to review resource data and fashion it into a vision of the future. This process may take seven months or more, properly staffed. Recommend DPR convene a group of practitioners to address this issue. Start with the existing group and add as appropriate. USFS and USFWS are natural partners.

DF: suggested considering the approach of timber companies. They are experts at managing on the scale of Mill Creek to achieve their desired objectives. Our objectives are different, but we could learn from their approach.

(1) Road Management

- a. BM: Park's road related sediment inventory - the database and linked GIS resources are essentially done, with isolated records being entered as the data become available.

BM: Road decommissioning will begin in June of 2004, utilizing the Rural Human Services grant (Proposition 13 money). Initial projects will focus on "maintenance free" roads in the Fourth Switchback area. "Maintenance free" refers to those roads that were partially abandoned by the former owner and identified as major sources of potential

II. Reports & Recommendations

☐ Action

The Committee offers the following recommendations to DPR for priority work at Mill Creek.

sediment delivery in the IMR.

- b. VG / TH: Consider involving Terry Sprieter in formulating low cost maintenance measures (i.e. critical dip installation). Logs discovered during road decommissioning and re-engineering projects be stock-piled for use in stream restoration projects.
- c. VG / TH: Stockpile logs discovered during road decommissioning and re-engineering projects be stock-piled for use in stream restoration projects.

(2) Forest Restoration

- a. VG / DP: Planning and implementation phases of the experimental forest restoration project are complete. Permits were secured in late summer of 2003 and 96 acres were thinned in the fall and winter.

DPR is funding installation of permanent growth monitoring plots to track the development of the old forest habitat over time. Individual tree growth and mortality will be measured, as will the number of trees per plot and the species composition

- b. VG / DP: A recent meeting (March 24) of local forest professionals was convened to conduct a field review of three experimental thinning trials completed on State and National Park Land in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. All three projects were done with a distinct restoration focus at various times over the past 25 years. The input provided will serve as a valuable starting point from which to develop a palette of silvicultural restorative prescriptions that will lead to the accelerated development of old forests at Mill Creek.

(3) Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat

- a. BMc: The Coho recovery plan indicates Mill Creek is a priority watershed. It identifies Mill Creek as (a) potential refugium, with (b) high risk of extinction, that (c) will respond to restoration activities, and (d) has none to very few barriers.
- b. BMc: Unknown whether the Governor will suspend Proposition 40 money that supports recovery related projects.

(4) Public Access

- a. JK: Unless funding is available to support the appropriate staff, Mill Creek will remain closed or public use restricted.
- b. KA: SRL will support docent-led interpretive tours to Mill Creek for summer 2004.
- c. BP / RS: RNSP has been approached by a local equestrian group offering mounted patrol assistance and assistance in developing, maintaining and monitoring the Mill Creek trail that runs from Jedediah Smith onto the Mill Creek property.

(5) Research Recommendations

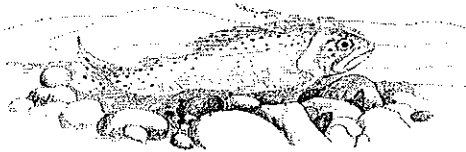
None – see General Recommendations Section for a summary of the proposed Integrated Ecological Restoration Plan (IERP).

III. Request for Information, Future Presentations and topics for discussion

Next meeting will be on Thursday June 17th, 2004 in Crescent City at 9 a.m. with the possibility of a field trip in the afternoon. An agenda will be circulated prior to the meeting.

Suggested topics for future discussion include:

1. Process for developing an integrated ecological restoration plan;
2. Update on restoration work
 - a. Road decommissioning
 - b. Forest restoration



MI Koch

MILL CREEK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

C/O SAVE-THE-REDWOODS LEAGUE
114 SANSOME STREET, #1200, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94101
ATTENTION: KATHERINE ANDERTON, CHAIR.

MEETING NOTES

Date: Thursday 23 September 2004
Time: Meeting: 9 a.m. to 10:30 with fieldtrip 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Place: Redwood National and State Park
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

Designated Representatives

Kate Anderton (KA) SRL
Karyn Gear (KG) SCC
Bob McAllister (BMc) CDFG
Al Wright (AW) WCB

Also Present*

Valerie Gizinski (VG) DPR
Roger Goddard (RG) DPR
Jay Harris (JH) DPR
Ruskin Hartley (RH) SRL
Terry Hofstraw (TH) NPS
Chris Howard (CH) SRAC
Jim King (JK) SCC
Brian Merrill (BM) DPR
Marilyn Murphy (MM) DPR
Dan Porter (DP) SRL
Jim Smith (JS) CDF

*SRL -- Save-the-Redwoods League; DNC -- Del Norte County; SCC -- State Coastal Conservancy; DPR -- Department of Parks and Recreation; SRAC -- Smith River Advisory Committee; DFG -- California Department of Fish and Game; NPS -- National Park Service; CDF -- California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection; WCB -- California Wildlife Conservation Board.

I. Action & Consensus

☐ Action

- (a) The notes from the last meeting were approved by the Committee.
- (b) Convene a meeting between DPR and DFG at earliest possible opportunity to address DPR road decommissioning standards, with the ultimate goal of NOAA / NMFS consultation and approval of DPR standards. DPR (BM)
DFG (BMc)
- (c) Provide a letter of support to DFG for 2 grants being submitted by DPR to DFG to fund road decommissioning (Bummer Spur) and culvert to bridge replacement. SRL (KA)
- (d) Provide a letter of support to DFG for a Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery grant to continue fishery monitoring at Mill Creek for an additional 2 years. SRL (KA)
- (e) Contact the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors and offer to give a presentation on road management and erosion control at Mill Creek. DPR (MM)
- (f) Explore whether the Mill Creek Institute could play a coordination role with respect to grant application and reporting, similar to a project being developed in Siskiyou County. SRL (KA)
MCI

II. Reports & Recommendations

☐ Action

The Committee offers the following recommendations to DPR for priority work at Mill Creek.

General Stewardship

(a) Funding Received & Opportunities

WCB has made a significant commitment to restoration at Mill Creek through the \$3.52 grant to the Smith River Alliance in recognition that protection at Mill Creek must go beyond purchase to include restoration.

DPR has submitted a BCP to address critical planning, restoration and infrastructure development. BCP includes study, planning, design and construction phases. Request includes 2 positions for Mill Creek (equipment operator and Ranger). Focus is protection of the resources. The BCP reinforces the need for planning at this point.

SRL has received the following grants

- Resource Legacy Fund Foundation – Preserving Wild California program to support restoration and long-term integrated planning at Mill Creek.
- \$50,000 from the Bella Vista Foundation to support the current year's forest restoration project.
- >\$155,000 from its membership in response to a Mill Creek restoration appeal.

SCC noted that before they can make a restoration grant, CEQA documentation needs to be in place.

(b) Boundary Adjustment

Thompson bill has been heard in the House. Blue Ribbon Coalition testified against the bill. Senator Feinstein has introduced companion bill in Senate. Senate Bill has been marked up, is out of committee and on the floor. DPR and NPS testified in support of the bill.

(c) Long-term planning approach

DPR convened a conference call with Sacramento and District Staff and SRL staff to develop an approach to long-term planning. Recommendation to develop Resource Management Plans and General Plan amendment in parallel.

Public Resource Code allows actions to protect the resource before a General Plan is adopted. All current projects are consistent with the PRC.

RLFF-PWC grant to SRL will support development of a long-term integrated plan.

(1) Road Management

a. Road decommissioning standards

DFG has road decommissioning standards that have been approved by

II. Reports & Recommendations

□ Action

The Committee offers the following recommendations to DPR for priority work at Mill Creek.

NOAA / NMFS following inter-agency consultation. DFG standards focus on addressing the road-stream intersection and making the road-bed hydrologically invisible.

DPR standards will need similar consultation with NOAA / NMFS prior to receiving federal funding. DPR standards go beyond DFG and recontour the full road-bed to approximate the original landform.

Perception is that the DFG standard gets 95% of the job done (prevent sediment delivery to streams). With past DPR projects, DFG has funded 95% of the cost and DPR has found additional funds to make up the difference.

DPR could tier off the DFG consultation if they adopt DFG standards.

Important to consider the difference between standards and methodology. DPR uses the same methodology as DFG, but the standards are different (arguably higher).

Suggest that DPR and DFG have early consultation on "park standards" before they are finalized. This would allow WCB funding to be used as a match for other funding sources that are currently available, but may be spent soon - for instance the current DFG funding is available for 1 additional year.

DPR (BM)
DFG (BMc)

b. Pending Grants - DPR

DPR plans to apply for 2 projects through the current DFG grant:

- Bummer Spur: 9.1 miles (\$700,000)
- Fish passage: 3 culvert to bridge conversions (\$700,000)

MCAC to offer a letter of support for these grants.

SRL (KA)

c. Current Projects – DPR

Road inventory is >95% complete and DPR is currently moving into design phase. The inventory has been integrated into a GIS tool that allows assessment of aquatic risk factor for road related erosion at any point across the property. Erosion threat can be compared with quality of fish habitat to prioritize erosion control projects.

DPR has identified 2 categories of roads:

- Roads consistent with the IMR assessment - i.e. roads that should be addressed in the short term because they present an immediate threat to the resource. Most of these are dead-end spur roads or "maintenance free" roads – roads for which previous company had removed much of the fill, but left culverts, with the idea that they'd re-use them in the future. These are now impassable and have significant potential to deliver sediment to the system.
- Roads outside the IMR – i.e. roads with lower failure risk that can

II. Reports & Recommendations

☐ Action

The Committee offers the following recommendations to DPR for priority work at Mill Creek.

be readily maintained.

Approach is to take the dead-end spurs out of the equation and leave options for long-term access.

Del Norte County has requested a road workshop to present the current projects to the public and see input. The Committee recommended offering a presentation to the Board of Supervisors as a starting point.

DPR (MM)

(2) Forest Restoration

a. Current Projects

2003 project has been completed – 96-acres were thinned using a variable density thinning prescription developed by UC Berkeley with input from many other resource professionals. Project funds came from SRL and DPR.

2004 project will get underway in October. 400-acres were selected using the IMR and inventory data from the company. A variable density prescription has been developed, with the objective of creating a more cost-effective procedure than in 2003. DPR hiring a roads & trails crew. Additional thinning work will be performed by a CCC crew. Project funds come from SRL, with a \$25,000 contribution from CCC.

(3) Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat

- a. DFG: Prop 40 has 9 million remaining in the next year. October meeting to set priorities. Likely to highlight importance of estuary functioning, including Eel River and Smith River estuaries.

b. Pending Grants – Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery

Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery is applying for a 2-year, \$136,000 grant to fund continued fisher monitoring at Mill Creek.

MCAC to offer letter of support for the grant.

SRL (KA)

c. Salmonid Monitoring

Outmigrant trapping ended in July.

Juvenile abundance dive counts are underway in West Fork and the East Fork will be dived for the first time since 1996. This will allow an estimate of overwinter survival and enable instream enhancement projects to be targeted to effectively enhance productivity.

- d. DFG (BM) reported on a coho recovery project underway in Siskiyou County. Agencies, landowners and other groups have come together to develop a single funding cycle and County-wide priorities to streamline the funding process. A single person will receive all proposals and then allocate them out.

Agencies maintain their different priorities, but the process identifies areas of overlap and streamlines the application and reporting process. The system is currently under development.

II. Reports & Recommendations

☐ Action

The Committee offers the following recommendations to DPR for priority work at Mill Creek.

Consider whether the Mill Creek Institute could play this coordination role for the Mill Creek project.

(4) Public Access

- a. Summer Docent Tours: SRL funded docent-led tours of Mill Creek alternative Saturdays from Labor to Memorial Day. They were well attended, with a good mix of locals (Del Norte and Humboldt) and out of area – including a couple of League members who planned a trip from the East Coast to coincide with a Mill Creek tour.
- b. Winter Spawning Tours: SRL will fund a series of winter spawning tours for the public.

(5) Research Recommendations

None noted.

III. Request for Information, Future Presentations and topics for discussion

Next meeting will be on Thursday January 20th, 2004 in Crescent City at 9 a.m. with the possibility of a field trip in the afternoon. An agenda will be circulated prior to the meeting.

property has frontage along Battle Creek which is crucial habitat to four native races of Chinook salmon and steelhead trout and to migratory birds.

The property owner has agreed to sell a conservation easement to TNC at the appraised value of \$950,000.00, approved by the Department of General Services. CALFED has agreed to contribute \$700,000.00 toward the purchase of the conservation easement. The WCB's proposed grant to TNC would contribute \$250,000.00 to cover the remaining balance of the purchase price. It is estimated that an additional \$10,000.00 will be needed to cover project costs, including DGS review charges, bringing the total amount requested for this project to \$260,000.00.

The proposed acquisition is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act requirements under Section 15313, Class 13, as the acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes and under Section 15325, Class 25, as the transfer of ownership in land to preserve open space. Subject to approval by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

Staff recommends that the Board approve the grant as proposed; allocate \$260,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Prop. 117), Section 2786 (b/c), for the grant and associated costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

34.	Habitat Restoration, Mill Creek Watershed, Del Norte County	\$3,520,000.00
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This proposal is to consider an allocation for a grant to the Smith River Alliance (SMR) for a cooperative project to improve aquatic and terrestrial habitats in the Mill Creek Watershed. The Mill Creek property is a 40± square mile area located approximately six miles southeast of Crescent City in Del Norte County, California. The property is characterized by steep mountainous terrain typical of the Coast range, with an elevation ranging from 200 to 2,400 feet above sea level. The property is bordered by Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park to the north, Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park to the west, Smith River National Recreation Area to the east and private industrial timber lands to the south. The property primarily encompasses the Mill Creek and Rock Creek watersheds tributaries to the wild and scenic Smith River. The property is part of the Redwood National and State Parks complex, and is being managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) in cooperation with the National Park Service. Other partners participating in the project include Save the Redwoods League (SRL), the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), the State Water Resources Control Board, the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG).

The property has a long history of timber harvest dating back to the 1850s. Between 1954 and 2000, the property was intensively managed for commercial timber harvest, which included constructing an extensive road network and converting most of the property from old-growth to early-successional coniferous forest. Only 200± acres of old-growth forest remain in five separate stands.

On May 18, 2001, the Board approved \$15,000,000.00 in funding for their share of the acquisition of this property. The acquisition provided a critical landscape linkage between the region's ancient coastal forests and the inland forests of the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion. Mill Creek has been identified as a priority opportunity for forest restoration primarily due to the history of timber harvesting that has occurred on the property. Located at the northern extent of the redwood range, the project area includes the Mill Creek and Rock Creek watersheds, tributaries to the wild and scenic Smith River. Almost the entire Mill Creek and Rock Creek watersheds are in protected public ownership. Mill Creek is within the Redwood National and State Parks and Rock Creek is within the Smith River National Recreation Area. Mill Creek flows through the superlative ancient redwood groves of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park before joining the Smith River. In addition to its redwood values, Mill Creek has been identified as a priority wild coho salmon refugium in the Department's Coho Recovery Program report. The Mill Creek watershed is included in a group of watersheds that are ranked high relative to their potential for coho salmon recovery. This area is therefore a top priority for Department resources and other resources available for habitat restoration.

The Mill Creek property presents extraordinary challenges for maintaining and restoring wildlife and fish populations. The legacy of decades of intensive industrial timber management threatens the ecological integrity of the natural systems that support Mill Creek's wildlife and fisheries. The once complex ancient forest mosaic was converted into a forest dominated by a dense, even-age conifer plantation with limited structural and biological diversity. High road densities threaten to flood the creeks with sediment, destroying salmon and trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Despite its industrial legacy, Mill Creek is at present the State's premier wild coho salmon refugium; provides habitat for the marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, mountain lion and Pacific fisher; and protects the watershed for the primeval redwood groves of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. To ensure these ecological values are protected and maintained, a comprehensive integrated and watershed-wide restoration program is required.

Recognizing the need to implement a coordinated ecological restoration program, SRL and SCC sponsored development of Interim Management Recommendations (IMR) to guide emergency restoration activities that will be undertaken by the DPR

until a long-term integrated ecological restoration plan can be developed. The proposed project is a three-year effort to implement the initial phase of the IMR. The work will be managed by SRA under the direction of DPR, with support and guidance from the members of the Mill Creek Advisory Committee, utilizing CCC labor where possible.

In general, the project will improve in-stream habitat, improve forest health, improve vegetation diversity in riparian forest areas, maintain and improve water quality in Mill Creek through erosion prevention associated with the decommissioning of former logging roads, and create and manage a native plant nursery to provide stock for revegetation and restoration of the Mill Creek Watershed property.

Specifically, the project will accomplish the following objectives: decommission up to 51 miles of high priority roads to reduce the risk of catastrophic failure (i.e. land slides); provide storm erosion control and culvert clearing for approximately 255 miles of roads; implement thinning in 1,200 acres of high priority young forest stands to reduce unnaturally high densities, restore species composition, and promote old growth forest characteristics; implement wildlife and habitat monitoring in thinned and unthinned stands as part of a property-wide adaptive management program; establish a nursery to raise native plant material to support Mill Creek riparian restoration; improve in-stream habitat in lower reaches of Mill Creek through construction of up to 45 in-stream log cover structures; re-establish riparian conifers along Mill Creek by planting and tending up to 60,000 native conifer seedlings in up to 75± acres of alder-dominated riparian area along approximately five miles of stream; continue salmonid monitoring to provide information on life-stage-specific survival rates and long-term population trends and to increase the understanding of potential factors limiting population abundance and survival.

Cost estimates for this project, which have been reviewed and approved by staff, are as follows:

Description	Estimated Cost
Road decommissioning	\$3,906,363.00
Revegetate stream crossings	285,000.00
Storm season erosion control	238,000.00
Ecological thinning	938,960.00
Wildlife and habitat monitoring	144,000.00
Establish native plant nursery	180,000.00
In-stream habitat creation	110,000.00
Riparian conifer planting	153,000.00
Salmonid monitoring	225,000.00
Administration	411,900.00

Contingency	189,200.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST:	\$6,781,423.00

Proposed Funding Breakdown:	
Wildlife Conservation Board	\$3,520,000.00
Department of Fish and Game	734,363.00
State Water Resources Control Board	550,000.00
State Coastal Conservancy	1,200,100.00
Department of Parks and Recreation	371,750.00
Save the Redwoods League	405,210.00
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING:	\$6,781,423.00

The DFG has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. The DPR is lead agency for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, and anticipates filing a Negative Declaration for this project.

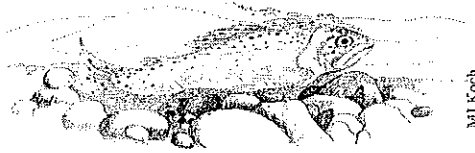
This project has excellent support at the local, state and federal level, as indicated by letters of support that have been received by the Wildlife Conservation Board.

Staff recommends that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$3,520,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79565, and Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (e/f); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

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- | | |
|---|---|
| 35. Hearst Ranch Conservation Area,
San Luis Obispo County | \$34,500,000.00
including Tax Credit |
|---|---|

This is a proposal to consider an allocation of a Grant to the American Land Conservancy (ALC) to assist in the completion of the conservation transaction for Hearst Ranch located on the Central California Coast in San Luis Obispo County. This is also a proposal to consider the request for conditional approval authorizing tax credits under the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act of 2000 and also approval to accept funding from the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) to assist in the transaction. The project involves a number of partners including the SCC, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), Department of Fish and Game (DFG), Department of Transportation (Caltrans), ALC, California Rangeland Trust (CRT), The Hearst Corporation (Hearst) and the Wildlife Conservation Board (Board).

The partners to the transaction have worked with the Resources Agency to present for public review and comment the current working drafts of



MILL CREEK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

C/O SAVE-THE-REDWOODS LEAGUE
114 SANSOME STREET, # 1200
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104
TEL: (415) 362-2352
ATTN: KATHERINE ANDERTON, CHAIR

AGENDA

Date: Thursday 23 September 2004
Time: Meeting: 9 a.m. to 10:30 with fieldtrip 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Place: Redwood National and State Park
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

Purpose: To update committee members regarding current activities at Mill Creek, to review and seek input on existing and planned restoration projects, and to identify funds to implement ecological restoration.

		Time
1	COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT	9:00
	▪ * Review notes from last meeting	
2	INFORMATION UPDATES	9:15
	▪ General Property Management	
	• Pending funding requests	
	• Boundary adjustment	
	• Planning approach – General Plan & Resource Management Plans	
	▪ Road Management & Erosion Control	
	• 2004 scheduled projects	
	• Future year projects	
	▪ Forest Restoration	
	• 2004 forest thinning project	
	• Future year projects	
	▪ Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat	
	• Salmonid monitoring report	
	▪ Public Access	
	• Summer 2004 interpretive tours	
	• Upcoming winter tours	
3	COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT	10:20
	▪ Set next meeting date	
	▪ Meeting audit	



NO KNH

MILL CREEK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

C/O SAVE-THE-REDWOODS LEAGUE
114 SANSOME STREET, # 1200
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104
TEL: (415) 362-2352
ATTN: KATHERINE ANDERTON, CHAIR

AGENDA

Date: Wednesday February 15, 2006

Time: 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Place: Redwood National and State Park Offices
1111 Second Street, Crescent City, CA 95531.

Conference Call: 800-820-4690 / pass code 7061302

Purpose: To update committee members regarding current activities at Mill Creek, review plans for expanding public access during summer 2006, discuss approaches to road decommissioning, and review multi-year project plans.

		WHO	TIME
1	COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT	KA	9:00
	▪ Affirm Committee Chair for 2006		
	▪ * Review notes from last meeting		
2	DISCUSSION		
	<i>In-depth presentation and discussion highlighting funding need and opportunities for research and collaboration.</i>		
	a. General Property Management		
	▪ General Plan amendment	SH	9:15
	b. Public Access		
	▪ Public access for summer 2006	SH	9:45
	c. * Erosion Control		
	▪ Approach to addressing the budget shortfall between DFG and DPR standards	DB	10:15
	▪ 2006 project schedule		
	BREAK		11:00

3 PROJECT UPDATE

Brief project updates from DPR and other project staff highlighting funding need and opportunities for research and collaboration.

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- | | | |
|---|----|-------|
| a. Forest Restoration | LL | 11:10 |
| ▪ Update on multi-year plan | | |
| ▪ 2006 project schedule | | |
| <hr/> | | |
| b. Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat | | |
| ▪ Instream work and riparian vegetation management work | CH | 11:30 |
| ▪ Mill Creek plant nursery | GW | |
-

4 ADJOURN 12:00

* Indicates supporting material enclosed

KA – Kate Anderton
LL – Lathrop Leonard
SH – Steve Horvitz

RH – Ruskin Hartley
DB – Don Beers
CH – Chris Howard
RG – Roger Goddard



MJ KINH

MILL CREEK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

C/O SAVE-THE-REDWOODS LEAGUE
114 SANSOME STREET, #1200, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104
ATTENTION: KATHERINE ANDERTON, CHAIR.

MEETING NOTES

Date: Wednesday, November 9th, 2005
Time: Meeting: 9 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Place: Redwood National and State Park Offices
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

Designated Representatives*

Kate Anderton	SRL
Jim King	SCC
Philip Bairrington	CDFG
Scott Clemons	WCB (☎)
Dave Finigan	DNC

Also Present*

Brian Merrill	DPR
Jay Harris	DPR
Rick Sermon	SRA
Don Beers	DPR
Rick Hiser	RIA
Marilyn Murphy	DPR
Lathrop Leonard	NPS/DPR
Rocco Fiori	DPR
Dave Means	WCB (☎)
Ruskin Hartley	SRL
Dan Porter	SRL
Chris Howard	MCFMP
Grant Werschull	SRA (☎)

*SRL – Save-the-Redwoods League; DNC – Del Norte County; SCC – State Coastal Conservancy; DPR – Department of Parks and Recreation; SRAC – Smith River Alliance; CDFG – California Department of Fish and Game; NPS – National Park Service; CDF – California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection; WCB – California Wildlife Conservation Board; MCFMP – Mill Creek Fishery Monitoring Program; RIA – Redwood Interpretive Association ☎ – participated via conference call

I. Action & Consensus

☐ Action

- | | |
|--|-----|
| a. The notes from the last meeting were approved by the Committee. | ALL |
| b. Develop a project description and associated budget for expanded public access in summer 2006 and forward to WCB for review and consideration as the elements of a public access grant. | DPR |
| c. Follow-up on Boundary Adjust support letter and provide copy of letter to SRL for the Committee. | DPR |
| d. Send letter from County Supervisors to DPR supporting completion of the GP amendment | DNC |
| e. Track storm-season patrol activities and track volume of sediment that is prevented from being delivered to streams and report results to WCB and the Committee. | DPR |

- f. DP to determine if in order to start the General Plan amendment a \$300,000 commitment is needed up front or need \$100,000 for the first year. DPR
- g. Develop restoration proposal for submittal to the SCC, focused on protecting and enhancing fish resources for consideration at the spring 2005 Board meeting. SRL

II. Reports & Recommendations

☐ Action

The Committee offers the following updates and recommendations to DPR for priority work at Mill Creek.

(1) General Stewardship

Project Update

General Plan Amendment

Mill Creek remains DPR's #1 priority for General Plan completion. However, the Department has no funds this FY for new GPs. They are focusing on completing the ones that are already underway.

Cost estimated at \$300,000 for a three-year process. DPR to determine whether need \$300,000 committed upfront, or if need \$100,000 in the first year to get started. DPR

Critical Challenges & Recommendations

General Plan Amendment

MM to follow-up on copy of letter DPR provided in support of boundary adjustment. DPR

Crescent City – Del Norte County Chamber of Commerce had send a letter in support of the completing a General Plan for the property.

Del Norte County to send a letter urging that DPR complete the GP amendment.

(2) Road Management & Erosion Control

Project Update

Storm season patrol is starting up using a phased approach.

- DPR will track patrol activities and estimate volume of sediment that is prevented from being delivered to streams as a result of the patrols.

Erosion control project

- Contractors are estimating a 15% increase in costs next FY, largely as a result of escalating fuel costs.

Watershed scale restoration and effectiveness monitoring

- Rocco Fiori gave an abbreviated presentation of a proposal submitted to DFG to fund watershed-scale effectiveness monitoring to evaluate the effect of road decommissioning projects on

II. Reports & Recommendations

□ Action

The Committee offers the following updates and recommendations to DPR for priority work at Mill Creek.

sediment discharge and potential effects on native salmonids. The proposal is currently undergoing review by DFG.

Critical Challenges & Recommendations

Road decommissioning standards

- DPR lacks additional funds to decommission roads to full landform standards. DPR, SRA, WCB and DFG have been reviewing road decommissioning standards per a request and summary provided by DPR.
- DFG has drafted a letter on the standards issue (awaiting final review and release) The Department has in the past recognized the idea that more could be done, but will likely continue to focus their investment on stream crossings and lower-elevation sites. While higher elevation sites and roads outside stream crossings do pose risk, it is not as imminent from a fisheries perspective.
- DPR approach to road removal is to focus on ecosystem restoration, not just fish specific.
- DFG standards derived from PWA study and were designed to prevent sediment delivery to streams in as cost effective a manner as possible.
- SRA and DPR will continue to work with WCB and DFG to evaluate an approach to address gaps in funding between DFG and DPR road decommissioning standards. WCB would like to see the final DFG response and have conversations with DFG staff before making a determination of how to proceed. WCB staff have the ability to adjust the budget, consistent with the intent of the approved project.
- SCC generally supports the focus on ecosystem restoration, but most funding has a narrow fish nexus. SCC is receptive to a proposal that embraces DPR standards, but needs to maintain the focus protection and enhancement of fish habitat. Restoration grant proposals should come from a non-profit involved in the project.

(3) Forest Restoration

Project Update

SRL and DPR provided an in-depth presentation of the proposed five-year Forest Restoration plan. The associated Mitigated Negative Declaration will be filed on December 1st. Following 60-day review, it is anticipated that the plan will be operable by March 1, 2006.

- Includes a variety of restoration prescriptions designed to address emergency forest protection measures in young, dense forest stands.
- Actions are closely integrated with the road decommissioning plan

II. Reports & Recommendations

☐ Action

The Committee offers the following updates and recommendations to DPR for priority work at Mill Creek.

and schedule.

- Includes a monitoring and adaptive management component. Monitoring will be carried out for 15 years, on a 5 year interval.

The North Coast Forest Restoration Cooperative is an emerging group of scientists and land managers from local public agencies and Humboldt State University who are engaged in developing restoration standards and guidelines for the region.

Critical Challenges & Recommendations

- Evaluate the ecological impact and consequences of deferring restoration actions until the trees are larger and whether restoration treatments in older stands would be value neutral (material removed from stand could pay for the cost of the restoration treatment.)

(4) Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat

Project Update

Salmonid monitoring and surveys

- Chris Howard distributed a white paper on the status of cutthroat trout in Mill Creek and Rock Creek.
- Current monitoring project is funded through 2007. Rowdy Creek will submit a new proposal to DFG in May 2006. Given the state of the budget, it is possible that funds will not be available.
- Stillwater Sciences is nearing completion of a limiting factors analysis and over-wintering study for the watershed.

Coho Recovery Plan

- CalPlan – monitoring proposal developed over 2-years is on-hold pending DFG reorganization. CalPlan will likely be rewritten. A funding source has yet to be identified and is needed.
- CalPlan doesn't mention Mill Creek as a candidate for a permanent lifecycle monitoring station

Instream Habitat and Riparian Conifer Planting

- Historic vegetation conditions have been defined. Reference reaches and transects will be surveyed in Spring 2006. Propagation is underway with planting scheduled for later 2006 and 2007.

Critical Challenges & Recommendations

- Evaluate whether a weir could be constructed in the Mill Creek watershed to leverage existing fishery record.

MCFMP / DPR

II. Reports & Recommendations

☐ Action

The Committee offers the following updates and recommendations to DPR for priority work at Mill Creek.

- Ensure that outmigrant monitoring continues

(5) Public Access

Project Update

The following tours and access opportunities were offered over the summer months:

- 9 auto tours offered by DPR docents. Up to 30 people per tour. About 50% local, 50% regional. Most are first-time visitors. About every other tour there are people who used to work at the property.
- 5 redwood field ecology seminars offered by North Coast Redwoods Interpretive Association
- All-night star party for the *Persiades* meteor shower
- 1 equestrian tour by the North Coast Trail Riders
- Local bike shop started offering bike tours through a special use permit

Winter salmon spawning tours will start November 19th and run for three plus weeks, depending on weather.

DPR is reaching out to other groups to offer self-organizing tours and use opportunities.

On behalf of the Committee, SRL met with Ruth Coleman and other DPR staff in Sacramento to urge that DPR committed staff to the Mill Creek project to enable enhanced public access.

Critical Challenges & Recommendations

- Most requests from the local community are for "open access"
- DPR would like to offer broader public access for summer 2006 to coincide with opening of the Del Norte Mill Creek campground (May 1 to Oct 1). Need funds for minor public use improvements (water, signage, temporary toilets, brochures, etc.) and additional staff.
- WCB would like to see a concrete proposal for interim use improvements. Local support (financial and otherwise) would help build support for a public access grant. The program has \$500,000 in funds state-wide – most funds this FY are encumbered. Focus of grants is funding long-term facilities. Operations and maintenance funds are not a possibility.
- SCC had provided support for interim access at the Willow Creek acquisition. This involved unique circumstances and didn't see it repeated.
- SCC underscored the importance of public access as a necessary component of the project and essential if SCC is to grant restoration

II. Reports & Recommendations

☐ Action

The Committee offers the following updates and recommendations to DPR for priority work at Mill Creek.

funds to the project.

- Both SCC and WCB recommended that DPR write a concrete proposal for interim public access – this is an essential starting point for future discussions.
- Start with the recommendations in the IMR and build from there to determine what is the minimal resources that are necessary to create safe public access during the summer months.

(5) Research Recommendations

- Evaluate the ecological impact and consequences of deferring restoration actions until the trees are larger and whether restoration treatments in older stands would be value neutral (material removed from stand could pay for the cost of the restoration treatment.)

III. Request for Information, Future Presentations and topics for discussion

a. Next meeting

Wednesday February 15th, 2006 in Crescent City at 9 a.m. to 1 pm.
with the possibility of a field trip in the afternoon. An agenda will be circulated prior to the meeting.

b. Agenda recommendations

- Consider longer meeting, with time for more in-depth presentation and discussion.
- Presentation by Stillwater Sciences on the results of the review of 10+ year record of fish data in the watershed.
- Present a more thorough presentation on the topic of watershed monitoring.



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

830 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



December 9, 2005

Mr. Don Beers
Roads, Trails and Resource Section Supervisor
Department of Parks and Recreation
North Coast Redwoods District
P.O. Box 2006
Eureka, CA 95502

Dear Mr. Beers,

This letter is in response to the Department of Parks and Recreation, North Coast Redwoods District (DPR) letter requesting the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to consider amending its partial road removal standards to include full re-contouring of roads. The DFG's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP) Technical Review Team (DFG/TRT) reviewed your request at their September 2005 meeting. The DFG/TRT consists of technical representatives from DFG and NOAA Fisheries.

It was the consensus of the DFG/TRT that in most cases, full re-contouring road decommissioning does not result in a significant amount of sediment saved when compared to erosion site re-contouring. Therefore, the current standard of cost-effective treatment of sediment delivery sites will continue to be used by the FRGP.

The focus of the FRGP is to restore anadromous salmonid habitat with the goal of ensuring the survival and protection of California's coastal salmonids. Although full road re-contouring standards meet DPR's management goals, the FRGP can only authorize expenditures for work which directly and cost effectively improves and protects anadromous salmonid habitat. Full road re-contouring is not cost effective and would reduce the funding available for other priority restoration projects. DFG will continue to consider funding joint projects from DPR where the full re-contouring work is provided by other funding sources.

DFG and DPR have a long history of cooperation on watershed restoration projects using FRGP funding, and embraces DPR's philosophy and mission to preserve natural resources and provide recreation to all Californians. DFG looks forward to continuing this cooperation in projects that directly benefit threatened and endangered anadromous salmonids in coastal California.

Sincerely,

Larry Week, Chief
Native Anadromous Fish and Watershed Branch

cc: See next page

